



GSL - Online

The Official Newsletter of the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program
A Division of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

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October 2007 Edition

New Faces



(From Left to Right) April Taylor, Sue Mohr, Sheila Newlun

GSL would like to welcome its new employees: April Taylor has joined GSL as a Claims Reviewer; Sheila Newlun has joined GSL as the new Administrative Assistant; Sue Mohr has joined GSL as the new 529 Education Savings Analyst; and Juli Armstrong has joined the GSL as the Default Prevention Admin

Support. Congratulations also go out to Rusty Umback on his promotion to Client Services' Lead Worker and Kristina Perusich on her promotion to a Default Prevention Counselor. It is also with great sadness that GSL says goodbye to Belinda Lund who worked at GSL for over 7 years.

Focus On Financial Aid

A long time ago I was raised on a farm out side of Longmont, Colo. When I graduated from High School I moved to Calif where I went to college, met my husband, started my banking career, and had two sons, Travis and Jeremy,

My husband was hired by the Bureau of Land Management in 1981 and that is when we packed up and moved to Billings, MT. I don't know if we can be considered native Montanans yet but Montana is definitely our 'home'.

In 1989 I became a financial aid counselor at Rocky Mountain College, in 1992 moved to the Director of Financial Aid, and in 1993 received my BA in Business Administration from Rocky. In 2002 I moved up the street to MSUB as a Financial Aid Counselor and in 2006 I became the Director.

Why have I persisted in this profession?

- Financial aid is a natural fit for me with my banking background and being a mom;
- Being an introverted individual (I know that will surprise a lot of people) I have been stretched to do things I never thought I could do;
- I learn new things everyday and am never bored;
- I am amazed at the persistence of students - they inspire me and make me want to work harder for them;
- But the main reason is the people in this profession and the relationships I have made.

One does not have to know me very long to realize that my family is at the top of my passion and priority list. My husband, James, and I have been married for 38 years. We have grown up together. Well, at least I am more mature. My two smart sons married beautiful



Judy Chapman, Director of Financial Aid, MSU - Billings

Up Coming Events

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| November 8 & 9 | « Decentralized Training -Great Falls |
| November 12 | « Veterans Day -Office Closed |
| November 22 & 23 | « Thanksgiving Day -Office Closed |
| November 26 - 29 | « Fed. Student Aid Conference -San Diego |
| December 24 & 25 | « Christmas -Office Closed |

young women and the two grand daughters, Madilynn and Olivia, are awesome. I also have a 3 year old Boxer grand dog named Berkley and two grand kitties, Addie Binks and Tidbit. Tidbit is a new arrival that I will get to meet in December.

As a financial aid professional, I have another family. All of you! The friends I have made and will make because of this profession are invaluable. That support is what keeps me in this profession and helps me get through those tough decisions we all have to make that affect students' lives.

~Judy Chapman, Financial Aid Director, MSU - Billings

Director's Den

At the recent Rocky Mountain Association of Financial Aid Administrators (RMASFAA), I had the privilege of both speaking with and listening to Dr. Dallas Martin. As most of you know, Dallas is retiring at the end of the year. A national search is under way for the next president of NASFAA, but it will be several weeks before a successor is named. One of the sessions at RMASFAA featured Dallas Martin and Brett Lief, president of the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP). As I listened to Dallas in what undoubtedly was one of very few remaining presentations he will give as NASFAA president, it dawned on me what a truly great partnership schools have with lenders and guarantors - especially in Montana.

Earlier in the conference, we heard from the US Department of Education. I'd be lying if I said that the presentation was uplifting. But when Dallas (and Brett) spoke, I felt reinvigorated and was reminded of just how much - together - we can do for students. I would like to thank and congratulate Dallas Martin for all he's done for both students and schools. He'll be missed. I'd also like to thank each of you for your integrity and professionalism, something that again came to light with the Montana Attorney General's report.

Bruce Marks,
Director, MGSLP